

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF DIPTERA by Boris Rohdendorf, published in the USSR in 1964, will be available in May 1974 to English readers in a translation by Dr. J. E. Moore and Dr. I. Thiele. The English edition has been edited by Harold Oldroyd of the British Museum (Natural History), Brian Hocking, Chairman of the Department of Entomology and George E. Ball, Professor of Entomology at the University of Alberta.

The book is divided into four parts. The first is concerned with present-day Diptera, numbers of species, the derivation of the order, its characteristics, and its interrelations with other groups.

The author questions the two accepted subdivisions of Nematocera-Brachycera, first formulated by Latreille and Meigen at the beginning of the nineteenth century, and Orthorrhapha-Cyclorrhapha introduced by Brauer (1869, 1883). Rohdendorf does not consider these to be valid taxa and he carefully explains his reasons. From a close examination of the evidence, he draws two conclusions: (1) that present-day Diptera comprise only two suborders: Nymphomyiidae, which may be called the Archidiptera, and the rest which are Eudiptera; and (2) that almost all living Diptera can be arranged in 12 groups of superfamilies and that these groups may be called "infraorders". The greater part of Part I is then devoted to a description of each infraorder. Superfamilies are described with notes on subfamilies, families, genera, and species, their distribution and numbers, the feeding habits of larvae and adults, their possible derivation, the factors which influenced their evolution, and their bodily characteristics, structure, and organization.

Parts II and III deal with Diptera of the geological past. Fossil remains found in Upper Triassic, and Lower and Middle Jurassic deposits at Issyk-kul and Karatau in central Asia are here described for the first time, complete with lists, keys, and detailed notes on wing venation. Many are previously unknown, highly archaic forms which enable some light to be thrown on the phylogenetic relations of many younger groups of Diptera, and pinpoint the meagre nature of our present paleontological records.

Part IV relates the nature of evolutionary conflicts and shows how their solution leads to adaptations in the structure of the organism in its struggle for life. Many examples are given, showing the sides of the conflicts and how they were resolved.

85 line drawings throughout the text, approximately 300 pp., bibliography, index.
price approximately \$12.

Direct enquiries to: Department of Entomology
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E3 Canada

